



United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development

Community Connect Awards – West Virginia

2008 Grant Awards:

WV Wisp, LLC

Reedy, West Virginia

Grant Amount: \$628,200

Contact: Frank Waybright, (304) 372-2670

County: Roane; 2nd Congressional District

Reedy, West Virginia is a rural community in Roane County with an estimated population of 198. WV WISP will provide wireless broadband services to the Reedy Volunteer Fire Department, Reedy Elementary School, and community center in addition to the community's residents. The center's employees will provide users with training on computer and internet usage.

2005 Grant Awards:

Town of Davy

Davy, West Virginia

Grant Amount: \$280,360

Contact: Ken Gentry, 304-656-7145

County: McDowell

This wireless broadband project will bring broadband service to the community of Davy, West Virginia, population 373. High unemployment, chronic health issues, and geographical isolation have led to outmigration leaving only those who can not move on. The project will utilize microwave transmission as the main connection for the community and use 900 MHz license-free wireless to connect with the individual user facilities. The project will connect the town's police department, fire department, and the community center. Free computer and software training classes will be offered at the community center. This grant will provide the town with much needed access to distance health care, job training assistance, and a portal to grow a local arts and crafts business and to attract tourists to a nearby ATV trail.

2003 Grant Awards:

Gateway Telecom, LLC

Bethany, West Virginia

Grant Amount: \$182,000

Contact: Howard R. Irvn III., 304-233-5343

County: Brooke



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The community of Bethany, West Virginia is a small rural community, challenged by both economic resources and isolation. The per capita income average is 74 percent of the national average. Lack of broadband infrastructure is a major barrier to economic development and improved educational opportunities. Grant funds for this project will provide broadband access to the participating critical facilities, create a broadband community center, and make training available to Bethany residents on how to use a computer and use the Internet. Participating critical community facility organizations include the Bethany Primary School, Bethany College, Fire Department, Town Hall, and Emergency Medical Service.

Gateway Telecom, LLC

Middleborne, West Virginia

Grant Amount: \$192,000

Contact: Howard R. Irvn III., 304-233-5343

County: Tyler

The community of Middleborne, West Virginia is a small, rural, and economically challenged community that does not have high-speed Internet capability. Their per capita income is 58 percent of the national average. Grant funds will provide broadband access to residents and to participating critical facilities including the Tyler County Public Library, Tyler County Sheriff's Office, Middleborne Volunteer Fire Department, Middleborne Community Center, Health Services and Boreman Elementary School. Training will be provided to residents for computer and Internet use.

Gateway Telecom, LLC

Pine Grove, West Virginia

Grant Amount: \$181,000

Contact: Howard R. Irvn III., 304-233-5343

County: Wetzel

Pine Grove is a small, resource challenged, community with a population of 701. The average per capita income is 69 percent of the national average. The primary goal of this project is to improve the educational and economic opportunities of the community. Valley High School will be a primary beneficiary of high-speed broadband service, providing students with access to modern technology and multi-media equipment. Participating critical facilities will include the Pine Grove Police Department, Wetzel County Emergency Squad, Pine Grove Fire Department, Pine Grove Library, and Valley High School. The grant provides important economic development opportunities by creating a broadband community center with access and training to the general public.

Mountain Champion Community First

Richwood, West Virginia

Grant Amount: \$275,000

Contact: John D. Reed, 304-847-2454



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County: Nicholas

The city of Richwood is located in a remote and mountainous area of West Virginia that traditionally relied on timber and coal for their primary source of revenue and jobs. The population has dropped 30 percent over the past 20 years. Community leaders are acutely aware of the need to develop the appropriate infrastructure to retain talented young people in the community, attract new businesses to area, and provide an enhanced quality of life for existing and new residents. Lead entities on this project include Mountain Champion Community First, the City of Richwood, PowerUP, Inc, Cherry River Elementary School, Richwood Junior and Senior High Schools, Nicholas County Board of Education, Glenville State College, and the West Virginia University Institute of Technology. In addition, the Richwood City Building Commission, the Richwood Fire Department, the Richwood City Hall, the Richwood Public Library, and the Richwood Area Community Hospital. Also participating will be the Richwood detachment of the West Virginia Department of Public Safety.

2002 Grant Awards:

Philippi Municipal Building Commission

Philippi, West Virginia

Grant Amount: \$2,391,115

Contact Person: Karen Weaver, (304) 457-3700

County: Barbour

Philippi Municipal Building Commission (the Commission) will use RUS grant funds to upgrade the existing cable system to a complete Hybrid Fiber Coaxial cable system thereby allowing for the widespread use of cable modems, which provide broadband access to the Internet at an affordable cost to businesses and residents alike. The Commission owns the cable infrastructure since the state prohibits the city ownership of such facilities. However, the facilities are leased to the city for actual operation of the cable system. Currently the city has approximately 340 Internet customers. Since the City of Philippi operates and maintains the cable and internet systems, the Commission will partner with the City of Philippi in order to achieve the goals of the project. By partnering a synergy will be established and momentum will be gained to spur the project to a successful completion and implementation. It is anticipated that the Commission will be rebuilding their plant to at least 870 MHz, Hybrid Fiber Coaxial two-way plant. The forward band will pass at least 55 MHz-870 MHz. The reverse band will be able to pass 5 MHz-40 MHz. The Commission's broadband HFC network will allow their customers to receive services beyond traditional cable television, to a network built on Internet Protocol. This access to knowledge will play the key role in expanding the opportunities and improving the quality of life for all residents in Philippi.